

The background of the cover is a large, faint, olive-green seal of the New York State Unified Court System. The seal features an eagle with spread wings at the top, a shield in the center with a sun rising over mountains and two sailing ships, and a banner at the bottom with the word "EXCELSIOR".

NEW YORK STATE

Unified Court System

Annual Report 2009



STATE OF NEW YORK

Report of the Chief Administrator of the Courts

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2009

COURT OF APPEALS

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CARMEN BEAUCHAMP CIPARICK

VICTORIA A. GRAFFEO

SUSAN PHILLIPS READ

ROBERT S. SMITH

EUGENE F. PIGOTT, JR

THEODORE T. JONES

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

ANN PFAU

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ANTHONY V. CARDONA

A. GAIL PRUDENTI

HENRY J. SCUDDER

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NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM 2009

JOAN B. CAREY	<i>Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, New York City Courts, through March 10</i>
FERN FISHER	<i>Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, New York City Courts, from March 11</i>
JAN H. PLUMADORE	<i>Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, Courts Outside NYC, through May 26</i>
MICHAEL V. COCCOMA	<i>Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, Courts Outside NYC, from May 27</i>
JUANITA BING NEWTON	<i>Dean of the New York State Judicial Institute</i>
JUDY HARRIS KLUGER	<i>Chief of Policy and Planning</i>
LAWRENCE K. MARKS	<i>Administrative Director, Office of Court Administration</i>
RONALD P. YOUNKINS	<i>Chief of Operations, Office of Court Administration</i>

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES – NEW YORK CITY

BARRY SALMAN	<i>Bronx County Supreme Court - Civil</i>
JOHN P. COLLINS	<i>Bronx County Supreme Court - Criminal, through May 5</i>
EFRAIN ALVARADO	<i>Bronx County Supreme Court - Criminal, from May 6</i>
ABRAHAM GERGES	<i>Kings County Supreme Court - Civil, through May 5</i>
SYLVIA HINDS-RADIX	<i>Kings County Supreme Court - Criminal, from May 6</i>
BARRY KAMINS	<i>Kings County Supreme Court - Civil</i>
JOAN B. CAREY	<i>New York County Supreme Court - Civil, through December 1</i>
SHERRY KLEIN HEITLER	<i>New York County Supreme Court - Civil, from December 1</i>
MICHAEL J. OBUS	<i>New York County Supreme Court - Criminal</i>
JEREMY WEINSTEIN	<i>Queens County Supreme Court - Civil</i>
FERNANDO CAMACHO	<i>Queens County Supreme Court - Criminal</i>
PHILIP G. MINARDO	<i>Richmond County Supreme Court</i>
EDWINA RICHARDSON-MENDELSON	<i>New York City Family Court</i>

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES – OUTSIDE NEW YORK CITY

GEORGE B. CERESIA JR.	<i>Third Judicial District</i>
VITO C. CARUSO	<i>Fourth Judicial District</i>
JAMES C. TORMEY	<i>Fifth Judicial District</i>
MICHAEL V. COCCOMA	<i>Sixth Judicial District, through May 2009</i>
ROBERT V. MULVEY	<i>Sixth Judicial District, from June 2009</i>
THOMAS VAN STRYDONCK	<i>Seventh Judicial District</i>
SHARON S. TOWNSEND	<i>Eighth Judicial District, through Aug. 2009</i>
PAULA L. FEROLETO	<i>Eighth Judicial District, from Sept. 2009</i>
FRANCIS A. NICOLAI	<i>Ninth Judicial District, through May 2009</i>
ALAN D. SCHEINKMAN	<i>Ninth Judicial District, from June 2009</i>
ANTHONY MARANO	<i>Tenth Judicial District (Nassau County)</i>
H. PATRICK LEIS III	<i>Tenth Judicial District (Suffolk County)</i>

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE – STATEWIDE

RICHARD E. SISE	<i>Presiding Judge, Court of Claims</i>
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE



THE STATE JUDICIARY CONTINUED THIS YEAR to grapple with the ripple effects of the economic downturn, experiencing a significant rise in foreclosure and other matters precipitated by the recession while facing the ongoing challenge of having to do more with less.

Stringent spending controls and a hiring freeze on administrative vacancies remained in effect in 2009, with a new program to encourage voluntary separation resulting in the reduction of some 200 non-judicial positions. Additionally, to further streamline our administrative operations, in April we announced the second phase of a plan that incorporates a county-based management structure in New York City to allow for quicker, more effective responses to problems involving core trial court operations at the local level.

With the tenuous economy also forcing more people to represent themselves in court, we have continued to step up our efforts to ensure equal access to the courts for all New Yorkers—regardless of income, background or special needs—launching several innovative volunteer attorney programs that offer eligible individuals assistance with consumer debt, eviction, child support and other critical matters, while also developing and enhancing online self-help tools to assist litigants without legal representation.

Among the other initiatives implemented by the court system this year are a court-based collaborative family law center—the nation’s first—that gives divorcing spouses who wish to settle their disputes cooperatively an alternative to the often lengthy, costly and contentious matrimonial litigation process; and a tri-county rehabilitative program tailored to nonviolent offenders who are military veterans.

I welcome you to read more about these innovative programs and the Judiciary’s achievements this year in other critical areas in this edition of the Annual Report of the Chief Administrator of the Courts, which also includes an overview of the year’s caseload activity, legislative updates for 2009, and a summary of annual expenditures and revenues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann T. Pfau". The signature is fluid and cursive.

ANN PFAU

The 2009 edition of the Annual Report of the Chief Administrator of the Courts has been submitted to the Governor and Legislature in accordance with Section 212 of the Judiciary Law.

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 MAP OF NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL DISTRICTS	 INSIDE BACK COVER

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: A SUMMARY OF 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

CASELOADS IN COURTS ACROSS THE STATE CONTINUED THIS YEAR to reflect the economic woes of New York and our nation. Civil filings were at an all-time high, including a 17 percent increase in home foreclosure filings over last year and a spike in cases involving unpaid credit card bills.

The poor economy also contributed to a significant rise in the number of unrepresented litigants appearing in our courts, spurring several innovative programs to assist litigants in civil disputes who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. (While defendants in criminal cases have a constitutional right to counsel, litigants in civil cases—except for indigent parties in certain limited types of civil matters—do not.) Among these initiatives are web-based do-it-yourself programs that help litigants produce personalized court forms for a variety of civil matters, and volunteer attorney programs targeting uncontested divorce and consumer debt cases.

We begin our 2009 Year in Review with highlights of these and other programs aimed at ensuring access to the courts for all New Yorkers, regardless of income, background or special needs.

STATEWIDE EFFORTS ENHANCE ACCESS TO THE COURTS

DIY Forms, Help Centers Assist Thousands Without Lawyers

WORKING WITH ITS PARTNERS IN THE LEGAL SERVICES COMMUNITY, the courts' statewide Access to Justice Program launched interactive, web-based modules that produce personalized court forms and instructions for civil matters based on a litigant's online responses to questions. User-friendly, DIY (do-it-yourself) modules are available statewide (at www.nycourthelp.gov) for Family Court support modification and paternity petitions, Surrogate's Court small estate affidavits and Supreme Court adult name changes—with modules for several other civil matters already in use by New York City Civil Court litigants—and over 25,000 DIY forms generated statewide in 2009.

We also continued to expand our statewide network of on-site resource centers for unrepresented litigants, relocating the Kings County Supreme Court's center to a larger, more accessible facility and publishing a best practices guide (available at www.nycourts.gov/ip/nyazj/publications.shtml) to assist court administrators in replicating these centers, whose staff answer questions on court procedure and provide visitors with appropriate court forms.

Boost in Attorney Volunteer Efforts Aimed at Rising Foreclosure, Consumer Debt Cases

IN RESPONSE TO THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN UNREPRESENTED LITIGANTS—and the shrinking funding for civil legal assistance programs—our Access to Justice Program partnered with local bar groups, law schools and legal service providers to create the Volunteer Lawyer for the Day Program in New York City Civil Court, which provides limited-scope representation to litigants (such as drafting of papers or holding a brief consultation on how to proceed) in consumer debt and housing cases; and an uncontested divorce clinic in New York, Kings and Queens County Supreme Courts that assists litigants with the preparation of divorce forms. The Access to Justice Program also joined with the Association of Corporate Counsel-Greater New York Chapter to develop a pro bono program for in-house counsel in an effort to expand the pool of volunteer

attorneys. Additionally, the Appellate Divisions of the First and Second Departments (which together incorporate Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester counties) approved student practice orders authorizing law school students and graduates acting under the supervision of the Access to Justice Program to provide legal advice and limited-scope representation to litigants on consumer debt, paternity, foreclosure and other matters.

Our statewide network of pro bono action committees—ProBono NY—continued to actively develop programs to recruit volunteer attorneys. In 2009 Suffolk County’s pro bono committee focused its efforts on foreclosures and uncontested divorces, for the latter employing a mentor system whereby novice lawyers, under the supervision of experienced attorneys, assisted litigants. An in-hospital legal clinic developed by the pro bono committee in our Fifth Judicial District continued to provide free legal services, such as preparation of health-care proxies and living wills, to low-income patients in the Syracuse area.

Since attorneys interested in volunteering their services may lack expertise in legal areas where the need is greatest, the courts offer free legal training to lawyers, who earn credit toward their state-mandated continuing legal education requirements in exchange for their volunteer service. In 2009 our Access to Justice program provided training to over 1,000 attorney volunteers on foreclosure, consumer debt, uncontested divorce, child support, landlord-tenant and other matters.

Also this year, the Access to Justice Program and ProBono NY participated in the first nationwide pro bono celebration, a week-long effort in October showcasing the work of lawyers whose volunteer efforts have made a difference in the lives of individuals with critical legal issues who cannot afford to hire an attorney.

Interpreting Services Enhance Court Access for Non-English Speakers and the Hearing Impaired

WHILE FEDERAL COURTS AND MANY STATE JUDICIARIES PROVIDE INTERPRETERS to non-English speaking and hearing-impaired criminal defendants, the New York State court system also offers these services to criminal defendants, parties in civil cases, witnesses and crime victims with language or hearing barriers. In 2006 we embarked on a plan to ensure that qualified interpreters are available in as many languages and court locations as possible, stepping up recruitment, training and testing methods for court interpreters and developing an online roster of qualified interpreters.

As of December 2009, the roster—accessible to courts statewide—comprises nearly 1,000 interpreters, listing their respective qualifications, scheduling availability and willingness to travel to specific counties, with this electronic system also capturing information to help courts identify foreign language needs and trends. We also continued to offer remote telephone and video interpreting services for cases when on-site services are not available, with remote interpreting services—in 42 languages—provided in some 330 court proceedings in 2009.

Improvements to Town and Village Courts Promote Access to Justice for Thousands of New Yorkers

NEW YORK’S 1,200-PLUS JUSTICE COURTS serve towns and villages in the 57 counties outside New York City, handling a wide range of civil matters; trying misdemeanors, minor offenses and violations; conducting felony arraignments and preliminary hearings; and collecting over \$210 million in statutory fines, fees and surcharges. While constitutionally part of the Unified Court System, these courts are supported primarily

through local funding. In recent years it became apparent that some localities lacked the financial and other resources to adequately support their Justice Courts. In response, the Office of Court Administration devised an action plan in 2006 that focused on streamlining Justice Court operations; updating courthouse technology, facilities and security; and stepping up training for Justice Court judges—approximately two-thirds of whom are non-lawyers—and staff to ensure these courts are fully prepared to meet their myriad responsibilities. The plan was devised to provide immediate assistance and resources to the state’s Justice Courts within the existing legal framework.

Implementation of the action plan continues to move ahead, with administrative, training and other Justice Court functions now centralized within the court system’s Office of Justice Court Support. Since the plan was launched, new computers, printers, digital recorders and other equipment have been installed in Justice Courts across the state; all Justice Court judges and staff have been incorporated into the court system’s email system; training programs for judges and clerks have been revamped; free online access to legal databases has been made available to Justice Court judges; and numerous enhancements made to court facilities.

Since 1999 the Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) has provided small grants to New York’s town and village courts to fund basic expenses such as computers. Under the action plan, these basic expenses have become the responsibility of the Office of Court Administration (OCA), making JCAP funding available for other purposes, security and facility upgrades in particular. Additionally, OCA requested and the Legislature approved annual JCAP funding of \$5 million, a ten-fold increase since the program was first established. To view the action plan online visit: www.nycourts.gov/publications/pdfs/ActionPlan-Justice-Courts.pdf. A two-year update of the plan was released in September 2008, available at: www.nycourts.gov/whatsnew/pdf/JusticeCourts2YearUpdate9-o8.pdf.

PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

FAMILY COURT FILINGS HAVE INCREASED 30 PERCENT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS as economic stress pushes many already fragile families over the edge. The court system continued this year to develop, implement and refine case management and other practices aimed at reducing delays and improving outcomes for at-risk children and families. This section of our Year in Review is devoted to these initiatives.

Initiative Promotes Well-Being of Neglected and Abused Children

THE CHILD WELFARE COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CWCIP) is a federally funded program that supports the Family Court’s mandate to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of abused and neglected children. CWCIP initiatives this year included the delivery of child welfare training programs for judges, attorneys and child welfare professionals; the expansion of “model court” best practices to all child protective parts in the New York City Family Court and family courts outside New York City with large foster care populations; and ongoing assessment of case management practices in child welfare-related matters. Also in 2009, the CWCIP, with the State Office of Children and Family Services and local child welfare agencies, participated in adoption panel reviews across the state to identify system gaps that may have prevented children freed for adoption from achieving permanency in a timely manner, seeking ways to overcome these obstacles. To learn more about CWCIP initiatives, visit www.nycourts.gov/ip/cwcip/index.shtml.

Statewide Commission Focuses Efforts on Needs of At-Risk Children

THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN was established in 1988 to improve the lives of children involved with the New York state courts. While the commission initially focused mostly on infants and younger children, it has since turned many of its efforts toward adolescents, examining juvenile probation, teens' participation in their permanency hearings and other issues.

In 2009 the commission and the Family Court Rules and Advisory Committee sponsored "safety net" legislation that would permit youngsters between 18 and 21 who were discharged from foster care within the past two years (because of a prior refusal to consent to continued care) to make an application to the Family Court to return voluntarily to foster care, provided the youth has no reasonable alternative to foster care and consents to attending an appropriate educational or vocational program.

As a member of the Governor's Children's Cabinet Subcommittee on Disconnected Youth, the commission participated in efforts to secure Medicaid coverage as well as access to vital records for youngsters leaving juvenile justice settings to help them make a successful transition from out-of-home care.

Addressing the special needs of children of incarcerated parents, commission members helped develop a survey to gather critical information on this population as well as a pamphlet that guides parents who have been arrested on how to plan for the care of their children when they are away; the brochure is being translated into Spanish and other languages and will be available to parents at various points in the criminal justice process.

The commission continued this year to underscore the importance of engaging teens in their permanency hearings, which while once discouraged is now widely recognized to have numerous benefits. Last year, commission members worked with the New York State Judicial Institute (p. 10) to produce a "Tools for Engaging Children and Youth in their Court Proceedings" module, with training sessions presented in 2009 at the Judicial Institute's legal update sessions for court attorneys, and at Oneida Family Court and New York City Family Court, among other sites. For more on the commission's work, visit www.nycourts.gov/ip/justiceforchildren/index.shtml.

On-Site Centers Offer Drop-In Child Care, Other Help to At-Risk Families

THE COURTS' CHILDREN'S CENTERS PROGRAM oversees a statewide network of drop-in child care centers that offer free, quality child care to youngsters while their parents are in court. Operated by local service providers, the centers promote literacy through storytelling and other activities—giving each child who visits a free book to take home—also linking families to health, education and other critical services. In 2009 the courts' 34 children's centers served over 56,000 children, also holding drives to collect food, clothing and school supplies for families in need. For more information visit www.nycourts.gov/ip/childrenscenter.

Parent Education Programs Seek to Reduce Trauma of Divorce

THE NEW YORK STATE PARENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAM certifies providers that offer child-focused education to parents to help them understand the effects of their breakup on their children and teach them how they can make their new family life easier. Judges may either order or refer parents to attend such a program or parents can participate voluntarily. As of December 2009, 51 parent education providers with a presence in all 62 counties of the state have been certified by the Parent and Education Awareness Program. Over 22,000 parents have attended parent education classes since the program's launch in 2005, with extensive efforts made throughout the year to promote awareness and use of this resource. For more information visit: www.nycourts.gov/ip/parent-ed.

STATEWIDE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS HELP RESOLVE DISPUTES OUT OF COURT

OUR STATEWIDE OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) oversees a network of not-for-profit community dispute resolution centers (CDRCs) providing mediation, arbitration and other ways of resolving conflicts without the need for a formal court hearing or trial. ADR services are offered in all 62 counties of the state on a range of matters, from small claims to custody disputes.

In 2009 our network of mediation centers provided free or low-cost ADR services to over 95,000 individuals across the state, including thousands of seniors and their families, with the courts' Elder Adult Dialogue and Mediation Program assisting the CDRCs to develop, manage and evaluate services for conflicts that often surround the transition of aging, such as living arrangements and medical care. For more information visit www.nycourts.gov/ip/adr/cdrc.shtml.

New Family Law Center Helps Couples Settle Divorce Cases

THE NATION'S FIRST COURT-BASED COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW CENTER was launched this fall in New York City to provide divorcing spouses an alternative to the often lengthy, costly and contentious process of matrimonial litigation. Under collaborative law, each spouse agrees not to litigate and hires a specially trained lawyer. Through a series of face-to-face meetings, the couple and their lawyers work to resolve all divorce-related disputes, mutually deciding on such issues as child custody and finances. If the negotiations should fail and the parties decide to take their case to court, the collaborative process ends and both clients must proceed with new counsel; communications made during the collaborative process are confidential and cannot be used against either party in subsequent court proceedings.

Opened in September 2009 and serving New York City's five boroughs, the Collaborative Family Law Center is located in lower Manhattan and beginning January 2010 will provide free or reduced-fee collaborative divorce services to eligible parties; the center will also offer training to collaborative divorce professionals. For more information visit www.nycourts.gov/collablaw.

Court-Annexed Matrimonial Mediation Programs Aim to Improve Outcomes for Divorcing Spouses and their Families

THE ARRAY OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) SERVICES available to litigants in Supreme Court was expanded, with staff from the courts' ADR office working with Queens County Supreme Court judges and non-judicial employees to implement a divorce mediation pilot program linking divorcing couples with experienced mediators who provide up to 90 minutes of free mediation services on parenting and financial matters. Our ADR office also worked with the New York County Supreme Court to revise its divorce mediation program rules to include mediation of financial as well as parenting issues; additionally, a divorce mediation program was launched in Nassau County Supreme Court and another is under way in Westchester County Supreme Court.

As part of the nation's annual Mediation Settlement Day celebration this fall, 16 mediators were stationed in Supreme Court matrimonial parts throughout New York City and in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties on October 15, 2009, with Supreme Court justices referring parties to 90 minutes of free mediation; evaluations by both the parties and their attorneys revealed great satisfaction with the process.

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCES OPERATIONS, ACCESS TO THE COURTS AND CASE OUTCOMES

Improvements to Automated Case Management Systems Continue

THE COURT SYSTEM'S AUTOMATED CASE PROCESSING SYSTEM, the Universal Case Management System (UCMS), was further expanded and refined in 2009, including an extensive upgrade to prepare the UCMS platform for criminal and Supreme Court (civil) cases. Statewide implementation of the UCMS Surrogate's Court component continued in 2009, with Kings, Onondaga and Suffolk counties added this year (for a total of 60 counties), and the system expected to be available statewide by the end of next year.

Enhancements to the Court of Appeals case management system include improved search tools and features that allow the user to electronically send decision-related data to the Law Reporting Bureau and generate a variety of statistical and operational reports.

Case Management System Supports Processing of Background Checks for Child Custody Cases

NEW LEGISLATION WAS ENACTED IN JANUARY 2009 requiring family and matrimonial courts to perform extensive background checks on individuals seeking custody of a child. These record checks have been automated through our Universal Case Management System-Family Court component, with background checks conducted over the year on nearly 1,500,000 people seeking child custody.

Data-Sharing Enhances Processing of Arraignments, Child Protective Petitions

TO HELP STREAMLINE THE ARREST-TO-ARRAIGNMENT PROCESS IN NEW YORK CITY, the court system worked with the city's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications to develop technology that will allow the court system and its criminal justice partners to exchange arraignment-related data electronically. In an effort to expedite the processing of child protective petitions—and better ensure their accuracy—the New York City Family Court and New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) implemented a system that allows ACS to submit child abuse and neglect petitions electronically to the Family Court.

E-Filing Programs Save Time, Travel

SINCE 2000, THE NEW YORK STATE ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM (NYSCEF) has allowed for the electronic filing of court documents in certain types of cases in designated venues. The program continues to expand, handling a growing number of cases and case types. Over 200,000 cases have been filed electronically and 13,547 users registered since NYSCEF's launching, earning the program permanent status this year; up until 2009 NYSCEF had been deemed a pilot program by the Legislature.

Online Initiatives Expand Access to Public Records

CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT RECORDS, a blue-ribbon panel appointed by the Chief Judge in 2002, the court system continued to increase online access to case information via eCourts, which allows users to view case calendars, dispositions and decisions electronically. This year eTrack—a free, case-tracking system introduced by the court system in July 2007—was expanded to include WebCrims, which provides online access to pending criminal cases.

The number of eTrack subscribers grew from 13,000 in 2008 to 24,000 this year, with the system sending out about 6,500 case updates daily to subscribers, including reminders of pending court appearances and notifications of other case activity.

Data Center Improvements Better Support Courts' IT Equipment, Operations

IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE TO THE COURTS' DATA CENTER IN 2009 to maximize temperature control in an effort to better maintain the servers and other equipment. A new network cable infrastructure and new power distribution system were installed, and upgrades made to the training room that include the addition of high-density video conferencing equipment and smart-board technology. The addition of a network operation center, which will provide 24/7 monitoring of the statewide network supporting the courts' audio, video and web functions, is under way; the network operation center will be integrated with the courts' help center and off-hours IT operations to enhance response time to outages.

PROBLEM-SOLVING APPROACHES AIM TO STOP REVOLVING DOOR OF JUSTICE

"PROBLEM-SOLVING" COURTS OFFER INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS to addiction, domestic violence, child neglect and quality-of-life offenses in an effort to end the revolving door of justice and improve outcomes for victims, communities and defendants. Over the past decade the court system has implemented a range of problem-solving court models, including drug courts, domestic violence courts, community courts, mental health courts and sex offense courts. Characteristics of each model include specially trained judges and staff, intensive judicial monitoring, and coordination with outside services and agencies.

By year's end there were 314 problem-solving courts in New York State. Drug treatment courts numbered 180, with 2,888 individuals across the state successfully completing drug treatment court programs this year; addicted offenders who complete court-supervised treatment and comply with the drug court's other requirements earn dismissal of their charges, a reduced penalty or other positive outcome. As of December 2009, there were 7,686 active participants in New York's drug treatment courts; following the passage of reforms to New York's drug laws that took effect in Fall 2009, 378 defendants were placed in judicial diversion programs (which provide treatment alternatives similar to those offered in drug courts).

There are 37 domestic violence courts and 45 integrated domestic violence (IDV) courts in operation statewide. In New York's IDV courts, a single judge hears all related criminal, family and divorce matters, resulting in more informed decision-making, greater consistency in court orders and fewer court appearances for litigants. IDV courts served 3,297 new families and took in 17,352 new cases statewide in 2009, with two rural counties in our Sixth Judicial District working to adapt the IDV model; last year, rural counties in our Fifth and Seventh Judicial Districts implemented IDV court models.

TRI-COUNTY PROGRAM IS TAILORED TO OFFENDERS WITH PRIOR MILITARY SERVICE

THE COURT SYSTEM PARTNERED WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' OFFICES in Kings, Queens and Nassau counties, the Law and Psychiatry Institute of North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System, the Department of Veterans Affairs New York Harbor Health Care System and Touro Law Center, launching a tri-county rehabilitative program in July to address the special needs of nonviolent offenders with prior military service. The first such tri-county program in the country, the Veterans Project will identify and treat under-

lying problems, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, typically suffered by these defendants. Veterans who are not considered to be a public safety threat and who plead guilty to their crimes will be eligible to participate in the three-county initiative, which entails stringent judicial monitoring and participation in treatment and other programs. Those who successfully complete the program may have their charges dismissed or reduced or may receive a reduction in sentence.

Expected to serve as a state and national model, the Veterans Project builds on the success of a court established in early 2008 in Buffalo, New York, which adapted New York's drug treatment and mental health court models to better address the unique challenges faced by war veterans charged with nonviolent crimes. The Buffalo court has already garnered national attention, inspiring the creation of similar courts in Rochester, New York and other communities, with legislation now pending in Washington, D.C. that would provide federal funding for the establishment of such tribunals.

COURT-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS HELP MAKE NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER

THE CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION, THE COURT SYSTEM'S INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ARM, tests new strategies designed to improve judicial responses to juvenile delinquency, quality-of-life crime and other problems, developing pilot projects that rely on strong partnerships with local stakeholders. Among the center's initiatives in 2009 were New York City Community Clean-up, a citywide community service program; Queens Engagement Strategies for Teens (QUEST), an after-school program for young people charged with delinquency in Queens Family Court that seeks to reduce the use of detention by providing judges with meaningful alternatives; and the Staten Island Youth Justice Center, another alternative-to-detention initiative. To learn more about the center's projects and studies, visit www.courtinnovation.org.

COMMERCIAL DIVISION SPECIALIZES IN COMPLEX LITIGATION

WITH NEW YORK AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF COMMERCE, the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court was established to help streamline the adjudication of complex commercial disputes. The division—which incorporates cutting-edge technology, alternative dispute resolution and other resources and has earned the acclaim of business leaders and the legal community—now operates in Albany, Kings, Nassau, New York, Onondaga, Queens, Suffolk and Westchester counties and in the Seventh and Eighth Judicial Districts. As part of the division's ongoing efforts to keep up with the latest commercial law-related issues, division judges and staff participated in a 2009 conference hosted by the Judicial Institute (p. 10) on practices and procedures, ethics rules and matters relating to the mortgage crisis. To learn more about the division visit www.nycourts.gov/courts/comdiv/.

ONGOING IMPROVEMENTS MAKE JURY SERVICE MORE CONVENIENT

AS A LEADER IN THE NATION'S JURY REFORM MOVEMENT, the New York State Unified Court System has implemented numerous jury service improvements over the past decade, making jury pools more representative and terms of service shorter and less frequent, among other enhancements.

The court system continues to strive to make jury service more convenient and rewarding for the 600,000 New Yorkers who serve each year, this year making call-in systems to postpone service available to

jurors in all 62 counties of the state as well as providing hearing-impaired jurors throughout New York access to assistive listening devices. Additionally, a best practices guide developed last year to further streamline jury operations has been updated and made available online, and the courts' juror qualification and exit questionnaires have been upgraded. With more and more jurors qualifying for service online (about 22 percent statewide), a program has been developed—to be rolled out on a pilot basis next year—that allows individuals who receive a juror qualification questionnaire but do not meet the state's juror eligibility requirements to submit their responses online. For more information visit the courts' juror site at www.nyjuror.gov.

NEW AND ONGOING INITIATIVES ENHANCE DIVERSITY, GENDER FAIRNESS

THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM CELEBRATES DIVERSITY and has a longstanding commitment to equal employment opportunity, the elimination of under-representation of minorities and women in the workforce, and the fair and equal treatment of minorities and women within the court system.

The New York State Judicial Commission on Minorities works to promote racial diversity and cultural sensitivity in the courts and throughout the legal profession. Efforts this year included testifying before the Senate Standing Committee on the Judiciary to improve the nomination process for judicial candidates to New York's Court of Appeals as part of the commission's work to increase diversity on New York's bench; holding a press conference in New York City and an outreach program in Buffalo, New York to increase awareness among members of the Asian-American community and other minority groups about this year's Court Officer recruitment civil service exam; hosting a reception for participants in the New York Legal Education Opportunity (LEO) Summer Institute Program—which guides minority and low-income college graduates toward success in law school (p. 10)—and overseeing a mentor program the commission established that pairs LEO participants with New York state court system judges. For more information about the commission, visit www.nycourts.gov/ip/minorities/index.shtml.

Dedicated to achieving gender fairness in the court system and greater community, the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts addressed a range of gender-related issues in 2009, partnering with the Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence to present a continuing legal education program at Fordham Law School titled "Expanding Our Vision: Human Rights, Victims' Rights and Approaches to Diverse Families"; working on a manual for judges and lawyers on human trafficking cases; responding to complaints from litigants; working with community groups and others to establish safe exchange programs for parents involved in high-conflict Family Court cases; and providing assistance to the courts' statewide network of gender fairness committees on Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Women's History Month programs. Visit the committee online at www.nycourts.gov/ip/womeninthecourts/index.shtml.

LOCAL, STATEWIDE EFFORTS PROMOTE AWARENESS OF COURT RESOURCES

COURT SYSTEM OUTREACH INITIATIVES COORDINATED THIS YEAR included a Mediation Week kickoff celebration, held in October to help raise awareness about the benefits of mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution in appropriate cases; the airing on radio stations around the state of a public service announcement informing listeners of the court system's upcoming Court Officer recruitment examination; the dissemination of informational handouts to colleges, community organizations and other entities to

raise awareness about the availability of court interpreting services for litigants with language or hearing barriers as well as the need for qualified interpreters to meet the growing demand in certain languages.

Additionally, our public affairs office worked with Mrs. New York America 2009, an elementary school teacher, to educate teachers and school administrators about the benefits of the New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program (p. 4)—which helps divorcing parents better deal with conflicts and work together for the benefit of their children—with Mrs. New York America visiting court-certified parent education providers and garnering media coverage about the program in the *Albany Times Union*, among other publications. For more information about outreach programs visit:

www.nycourts.gov/admin/publicaffairs/index.shtml.

CENTER ADVISES CANDIDATES AND PROMOTES INFORMED VOTER PARTICIPATION IN JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

THE JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN ETHICS CENTER SERVES AS A CENTRAL RESOURCE ON CAMPAIGN ETHICS for judicial candidates and informs the public about judicial elections in New York State. In 2009 the center responded to over 170 ethics-related inquiries from judicial candidates; conducted judicial campaign ethics training for 200-plus candidates; initiated a “fast track” training option for those who completed the full training program the previous year; and updated the Judicial Campaign Ethics Handbook (available at www.nycourts.gov/ip/jcec). The center’s 2009 online Judicial Candidate Voter Guide contained biographical information on 70 candidates for state-paid elective judicial office, receiving over 13,400 visitors in the period leading up to Election Day 2009.

STATEWIDE ENTITY PROVIDES HELP TO LEGAL PROFESSIONALS WITH ALCOHOL, SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

THE LAWYER ASSISTANCE TRUST WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2001 to bring statewide resources and awareness to the issue of alcohol and substance abuse among attorneys, judges, law faculty and students. The trust’s mission was later expanded to include outreach efforts and funding for programs that address mental health concerns among members of the profession. The trust’s grant program awarded \$258,397 this year to eight bar associations to support a variety of lawyer assistance programs and services. Outreach efforts in 2009 included mail and online distribution of the “NYLAT News” to members of the legal profession; dissemination of a solo/small firm newsletter to some 40,000 attorneys; and distribution of a brochure about lawyer assistance programs for law students. The trust’s Internet site, www.nylat.org, was redesigned in 2009 and now features a blog, among other enhancements.

INSTITUTE PROVIDES FORUM FOR JUDICIAL SCHOLARSHIP

THE FIRST JUDICIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITY BUILT BY AND FOR A STATE COURT SYSTEM, the Judicial Institute, located on the Pace University School of Law campus in White Plains, is a year-round center for education and research designed to enhance the quality of the courts and ensure judicial excellence. In 2009 the Judicial Institute sponsored a program for newly appointed administrative judges; hosted the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges’ Child Abuse and Neglect Institute; sponsored the

courts' annual summer judicial seminar, offering a range of courses, from legal updates in family, civil, criminal, housing and matrimonial law to sessions on the role of state courts in international law; continued its successful Lunch and Learn seminars, broadcast to courthouses around the state, with this year's topics including housing issues in City Court, tax certiorari proceedings and an update on personal injury sidewalk law. The Judicial Institute also continued to provide critical support in implementing the Action Plan for Justice Courts (p. 2), offering four webcasts "attended" by 3,096 Town and Village justices on vehicle and traffic law, handling court records, ex parte communications and domestic violence, firearms and orders of protection.

The Judicial Institute's New York Legal Education Opportunity (LEO) summer program entered its third year. Modeled on an American Bar Association initiative, the LEO program guides minority, low-income and educationally disadvantaged college graduates toward success in law school, with 19 prospective law students completing this year's rigorous six-week program, 17 of whom enrolled in New York law schools this fall. The institute also continued to collaborate with Pace Law School and the Center for Court Innovation on the *Journal of Court Innovation*, a scholarly publication highlighting innovative court practices around the country. Visit the Judicial Institute online at www.nycourts.gov/ip/judicialinstitute/index.shtml.

PROGRAMS OFFER NON-JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL GROWTH

THE COURT SYSTEM CONTINUED TO PROVIDE QUALITY TRAINING and professional development programs to its non-judicial employees, including programs targeted to specific job titles such as Court Clerk, Court Interpreter and Court Reporter; programs geared toward managerial personnel; and computer training and other professional and personal development workshops available to all non-judicial employees. In 2009 our New York State Court Officers Academy trained 100 officer recruits, also providing in-service and weapons re-qualification training for the court system's 5,880 uniformed and non-uniformed officers.

OFFICE PROVIDES CRITICAL SUPPORT TO GUARDIANS, FIDUCIARIES

Our Office of Guardian and Fiduciary Services is an educational resource for judges, attorneys, other professionals and lay people in the areas of guardianship under Article 81 of the Mental Hygiene Law and for court fiduciary appointments under Part 36 of the Rules of the Chief Judge. The office provided training and other support to lay guardians in New York City, with this year's workshops expanded to include information on how to prepare annual reports for submission to the court and how to obtain benefits for incapacitated persons. The office's website (www.nycourts.gov/ip/gfs/index.shtml) was updated to include information on relevant legislative developments as well as training opportunities.

CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION PROJECTS ADDRESS COURTS' EVOLVING NEEDS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COURT FACILITIES ACT (enacted in 1987), the New York State Unified Court System extends technical and financial assistance to local governments statewide for the maintenance, renovation and construction of court facilities, which are provided and paid for by the cities and counties they serve. Among the projects completed in 2009 were the Newburgh City Court facility; a state-of-the-art public safety building to house Niagara Falls' City Court and police department operations; the relocation

of Rensselaer City Court operations into a newly renovated facility; and the relocation of the Salamanca City Court into a renovated space in the local municipal building.

Progress continued on numerous projects, including the multi-phase renovation of Manhattan Family Court and the historic Albany County courthouse, both scheduled for completion in mid-2010; and the renovation of the Franklin County courthouse, which involves the installation of a new elevator, building entrance, roof and windows, among other upgrades.

Several projects were initiated this year, including construction of a new facility to house Staten Island's Supreme and Criminal Courts; renovations to expand Kings County Supreme Court (Civil), Kings County Criminal Court, Bronx County Supreme Court (Civil) and Bronx County Family Court; and the renovation/restoration of the historic Greene County Courthouse.

COURT STRUCTURE AND CASELOAD ACTIVITY

ARTICLE VI OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION specifies the organization and jurisdiction of the courts, establishes the methods for the selection and removal of judges and provides for administrative supervision of the courts. The responsibility and authority of the New York State Unified Court System (UCS) is vested in the Chief Judge, who also serves as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court.

The UCS is made up of 11 separate trial courts: New York City Civil, New York City Criminal, City, District, town and village Justice, Supreme, County, Family and Surrogate's Courts and the Court of Claims; the intermediate Appellate Terms and Appellate Divisions; and the Court of Appeals. This chapter describes the jurisdiction of these courts and provides an overview of their 2009 caseload activity as well as a summary description of the Office of Court Administration (OCA), the court system's administrative arm.

APPELLATE COURTS

THE COURT OF APPEALS—New York's highest court—hears civil and criminal appeals. In most cases, the court's authority is limited to the review of questions of law. Depending on the issue, some matters may be appealed as of right and some only by leave or permission from the court or the Appellate Division. The Court of Appeals also presides over appeals of decisions reached by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (which reviews allegations of misconduct brought against judges) and sets rules governing the admission of attorneys to the bar. The Court of Appeals consists of the Chief Judge and six Associate Judges appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to 14-year terms. Five members of the court constitute a quorum, with the agreement of four required for a decision. The court's caseload activity is reported in **TABLE 1**.

There are four **APPELLATE DIVISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT**, one in each judicial department (**SEE CHART**). Their responsibilities include resolving appeals from judgments or orders of the superior courts of original jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases; reviewing civil appeals taken from the Appellate Terms and

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES, THE NEW YORK STATE APPELLATE DIVISION IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR JUDICIAL DEPARTMENTS, AS FOLLOWS:

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENTS BY COUNTY					
FIRST DEPT.	SECOND DEPT.	THIRD DEPT.		FOURTH DEPT.	
Bronx New York (Manhattan)	Dutchess Kings Nassau Orange Putnam Queens Richmond Rockland Suffolk Westchester	Albany Broome Chemung Chenango Clinton Columbia Cortland Delaware Essex Franklin Fulton Greene Hamilton Madison	Montgomery Otsego Rensselaer St. Lawrence Saratoga Schenectady Schoharie Schuyler Sullivan Tioga Tompkins Ulster Warren Washington	Allegany Cattaraugus Cayuga Chautauqua Erie Genesee Herkimer Jefferson Lewis Livingston Monroe Niagara Oneida Onondaga	Ontario Oswego Seneca Steuben Wayne Wyoming Yates

New York's highest court, the Court of Appeals hears civil and criminal appeals. The court also presides over appeals of decisions reached by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct and sets rules governing the admission of attorneys to the bar.

County Courts acting as appellate tribunals; establishing rules governing attorney conduct; conducting proceedings to admit, suspend or disbar attorneys. Presiding and Associate Justices of each division are selected from the Supreme Court by the Governor. Presiding Justices serve for the remainder of their term; Associate

TABLE 1 CASELOAD ACTIVITY IN THE COURT OF APPEALS – 2009

Applications Decided [CPL 460.20(3(b))]	2,380
Records on Appeal Filed	246
Oral Arguments (Includes Submissions)	164
Appeals Decided	212
Motions Decided	1,432
Judicial Conduct Determinations Reviewed	3

**DISPOSITIONS OF APPEALS DECIDED IN THE COURT OF APPEALS
by Basis of Jurisdiction**

BASIS OF JURISDICTION	AFFIRMED	REVERSED	MODIFIED	DISMISSED	OTHER*	TOTAL
All Cases:						
Reversal, Modification, Dissent in Appellate Division	14	13	2	0	0	29
Permission of Court of Appeals or Judge thereof	61	28	9	1	0	99
Permission of Appellate Division or Justice thereof	26	20	5	0	1	52
Constitutional Question	6	2	0	1	0	9
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	2	2	0	19	23
Total	107	65	18	2	20	212
Civil Cases:						
Reversal, Modification, Dissent in Appellate Division	14	13	2	0	0	29
Permission of Court of Appeals or Judge thereof	27	19	6	1	0	53
Permission of Appellate Division or Justice thereof	13	15	3	0	1	32
Constitutional Question	6	2	0	1	0	9
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	2	2	0	19	23
Total	60	51	13	2	20	146
Criminal Cases:						
Permission of Court of Appeals or Judge thereof	34	9	3	0	0	46
Permission of Appellate Division or Justice thereof	13	5	2	0	0	20
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	47	14	5	0	0	66

*Includes anomalies which did not result in an affirmance, reversal, modification or dismissal (e.g., judicial suspensions, acceptance of a case for review pursuant to Court Rule 500.27)

Justices are designated for five-year terms or the remainder of their unexpired terms of office, if less than five years. The Appellate Divisions' caseload activity is listed in **TABLE 2**.

APPELLATE TERMS OF THE SUPREME COURT IN THE FIRST AND SECOND DEPARTMENTS hear appeals from civil and criminal cases originating in New York City's Civil and Criminal Courts. In the Second Department, the Appellate Terms also hear appeals from civil and criminal cases originating in District, City, and town and village Justice Courts. Justices are selected by the Chief Administrator, upon approval of the Presiding Justice of the appropriate Appellate Division. The Appellate Terms' caseload activity is listed in **TABLE 3**.

TABLE 2 CASELOAD ACTIVITY IN THE APPELLATE DIVISION – 2009

	FIRST DEPT		SECOND DEPT		THIRD DEPT		FOURTH DEPT		TOTAL
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	
Records on Appeal Filed	1,587	768	3,147	764	1,482	396	912	641	9,697
Disposed of before argument or submission (e.g., dismissed, withdrawn, settled)	134	127	5,995	1,299	109	1	0	0	7,665
Disposed of after argument or submission:									
Affirmed	961	687	1,725	708	903	265	442	564	6,255
Reversed	323	29	774	59	192	35	157	41	1,610
Modified	246	39	390	37	140	29	116	62	1,059
Dismissed	172	7	413	6	138	6	146	20	908
Other	88	3	118	141	10	0	5	1	366
Total Dispositions	1,924	892	9,415	2,250	1,492	336	866	688	17,863

	FIRST DEPT		SECOND DEPT		THIRD DEPT		FOURTH DEPT		TOTAL
Oral Arguments*	1,216		2,321		715		1,027		5,279
Motions Decided*	4,648		10,321		6,195		3,489		24,653
Admissions to the Bar	3,819		2,712		3,360		322		10,213
Atty. Disciplinary Proceedings Decided	1,691		176		54		63		1,984
*Not broken down by civil or criminal									

TABLE 3 CASELOAD ACTIVITY IN THE APPELLATE TERMS – 2009

	FIRST DEPT			SECOND DEPT			TOTAL
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	
Records on Appeal Filed	353	75	428	1,527	714	2,241	2,669
Disposed of before argument or submission (e.g. dismissed, withdrawn, settled)	40	4	44	924	454	1,378	1,422
Disposed of after argument or submission:							
Affirmed	227	34	261	287	83	370	631
Reversed	100	5	105	216	56	272	377
Modified	26	-	26	61	6	67	93
Dismissed	40	-	40	27	5	32	72
Other	19	-	19	13	6	19	38
Total Dispositions	452	43	495	1,528	610	2,138	2,633
Oral Arguments*			263			347	610
Motions Decided*			1,568			4,416	5,984
*Not broken down by civil or criminal							

TRIAL COURTS

In 2009, **4,641,116** cases were filed statewide in the trial courts. Excluding parking tickets, filings totaled **4,484,943** — 38 percent of which were criminal filings, 42 percent civil filings, 17 percent Family Court filings and 3 percent Surrogate's Court filings. As **TABLE 4** shows, total filings remained high at 4.6 million. Civil filings increased 14 percent, and criminal filings 2 percent, over the five-year period. **FIGURE A** shows the percentage of filings by case type.

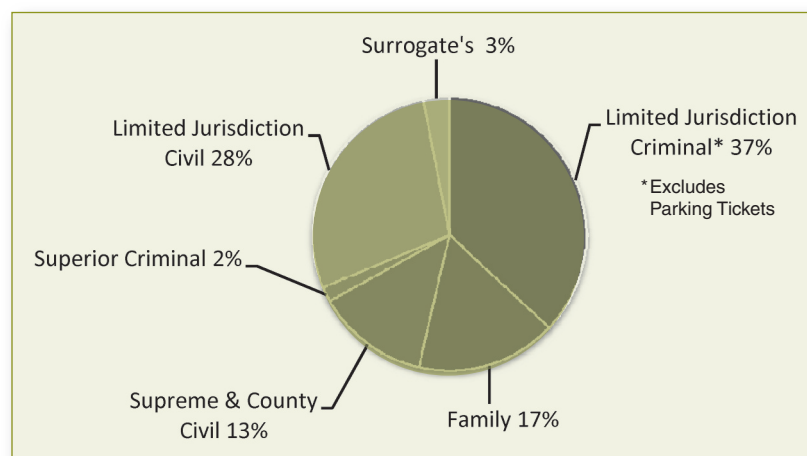
THE SUPREME COURT generally handles cases outside the authority of the lower courts such as civil matters beyond the monetary limits of the lower courts' jurisdiction; divorce, separation and annulment proceedings; equity suits, such as mortgage foreclosures and injunctions; and criminal prosecutions of

TABLE 4 *FILINGS IN THE TRIAL COURTS: FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON*

COURT	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CRIMINAL					
Supreme and County Courts Criminal	74,412 ^a	80,210 ^a	81,956 ^a	81,267 ^a	80,837 ^a
Criminal Court of the City of NY ^b	872,927	854,918	862,690	869,479	888,181
City & District Courts Outside NYC ^b	769,870	784,518	781,502	780,788	772,176
Parking Tickets	147,870	154,139	144,230	163,391	156,173
Criminal Total	1,865,079	1,873,785	1,870,378	1,894,925	1,897,367
CIVIL					
Supreme Court Civil ^c	402,318	408,756	414,132	440,157	466,470
Civil Court of the City of NY ^d	820,355	969,654	940,334	958,676	909,064
City & District Courts Outside NYC ^d	325,149	361,475	358,541	382,171	358,529
County Courts Civil ^e	30,812	27,532	26,491	34,380	42,178
Court of Claims	1,591	1,482	1,589	1,707	1,696
Small Claims Assessment Review Program ^e	51,527	78,057	73,103	77,257	85,265
Civil Total	1,631,752	1,846,956	1,814,190	1,894,348	1,863,202
FAMILY	665,970	727,130 ^f	709,293 ^f	739,662 ^f	742,365 ^f
SURROGATE'S	145,492	144,548	141,671	142,330	138,182
Total	4,308,293	4,592,419	4,535,532	4,671,265	4,641,116

^aIncludes felonies and misdemeanors, of which 28,135 were misdemeanor filings in 2009.
^bNYC includes arrest and summons cases; outside NYC includes arrest cases and uniform traffic tickets.
^cIncludes new cases, ex parte applications and uncontested matrimonial cases.
^dIncludes civil, housing, small claims and commercial claims.
^eIncludes new cases and ex parte applications.
^fIncludes Permanency Planning Hearings Held.

FIGURE A *TRIAL COURT FILINGS BY CASE TYPE – 2009*



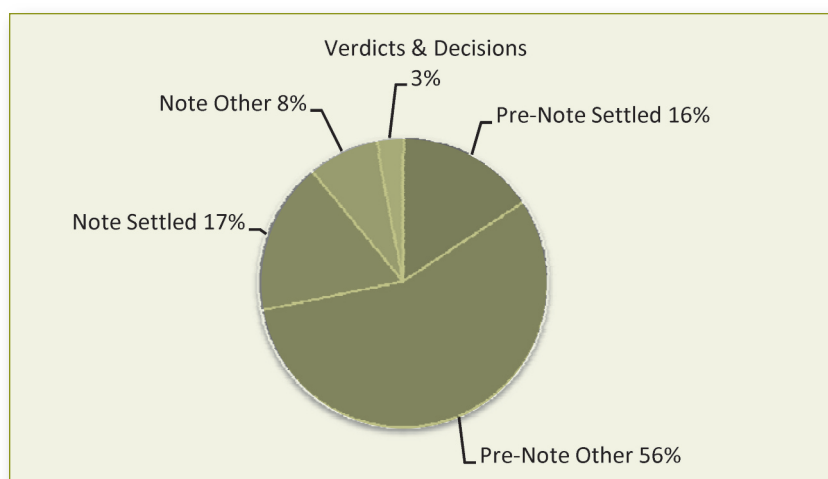
felonies. **THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION**, which is devoted exclusively to complex business litigation, is part of the Supreme Court. Supreme Court justices are elected by judicial district to 14-year terms.

CIVIL CASES

DURING 2009 there were **466,470** civil filings in Supreme Court, including **197,030** new cases, **225,716** ex parte applications and **43,724** uncontested matrimonial cases. A total of **447,371** matters reached disposition. Three standard-and-goal periods measure the length of time from filing a civil action to disposition. The first or “pre-note” standard measures the time from filing a request for judicial intervention (RJI)—when parties first seek some form of judicial relief—to filing the trial note of issue, indicating readiness for trial. The second or “note” standard measures the time from filing the note of issue to disposition. The third standard covers the entire period from filing the RJI to disposition. The respective time frames are 8-15-23 months for expedited cases; 12-15-27 months for standard cases; and 15-15-30 months for complex cases. In matrimonial cases, the standards are 6-6-12 months; in tax certiorari cases, 48-15-63 months. **FIGURE B** shows the breakdown of cases by manner of disposition.

COUNTY COURTS, located in each county outside New York City, handle criminal prosecutions of felonies and misdemeanors committed within the county, although in practice most minor offenses are han-

FIGURE B *SUPREME CIVIL DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION – 2009*



dled by lower courts. County Courts also have limited jurisdiction over civil lawsuits, generally involving claims up to \$25,000. County Courts in the Third and Fourth Departments, while primarily trial courts, hear appeals from cases originating in the city, town and village courts. County Court judges are elected to 10-year terms. The statistical data for the County Courts’ felony caseload are reported in combination with the felony caseload data for Supreme Court in **TABLE 5**.

THE COURT OF CLAIMS is a statewide court with exclusive authority over lawsuits involving monetary claims against the State of New York or certain other state-related entities such as the New York State Thruway Authority, the City University of New York and the New York State Power Authority (claims for the appropriation of real property only).

TABLE 5

SUPREME CRIMINAL & COUNTY COURT – FELONY CASES 2009

FILINGS				DISPOSITIONS						
Location	Total	Indictments	SCI's*	Total	Guilty Pleas	Convictions	Acquittals	Nonjury Verdicts	Dismissals	Other
TOTAL STATE	52,702	34,100	18,602	54,589	47,656	1,249	463	356	3,916	949
NYC	24,611	19,755	4,856	25,876	21,506	651	279	104	2,763	573
New York	7,553	6,866	687	7,803	6,164	273	75	26	1,103	162
Bronx	5,916	4,911	1,005	5,944	4,906	60	80	7	749	142
Kings	6,482	5,593	889	7,489	6,417	167	72	21	608	204
Queens	3,962	1,926	2,036	3,886	3,386	138	48	49	214	51
Richmond	698	459	239	754	633	13	4	1	89	14
ONYS**	28,091	14,345	13,746	28,713	26,150	598	184	252	1,153	376
Albany	1,190	767	423	1,088	980	31	13	0	48	16
Allegany	158	52	106	142	134	0	1	0	4	3
Broome	740	408	332	765	688	23	7	2	38	7
Cattaraugus	230	142	88	235	225	4	1	0	4	1
Cayuga	282	170	112	294	256	6	1	3	12	16
Chautauqua	539	202	337	552	526	0	0	1	16	9
Chemung	360	327	33	354	287	10	5	29	23	0
Chenango	120	85	35	103	94	0	0	3	6	0
Clinton	198	107	91	193	186	5	0	0	1	1
Columbia	142	40	102	185	169	4	1	1	5	5
Cortland	123	59	64	134	123	4	2	1	4	0
Delaware	54	27	27	53	49	1	2	0	1	0
Dutchess	463	143	320	472	400	8	6	2	28	28
Erie	2,567	863	1,704	2,988	2,628	38	16	104	169	33
Essex	89	67	22	63	57	0	2	0	4	0
Franklin	114	44	70	110	100	6	1	0	2	1
Fulton	132	48	84	143	124	6	4	0	9	0
Genesee	247	114	133	238	229	6	1	2	0	0
Greene	104	38	66	115	108	3	0	0	3	1
Hamilton	5	2	3	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Herkimer	206	48	158	209	204	2	0	0	3	0
Jefferson	665	137	528	661	652	4	0	0	2	3
Lewis	142	32	110	164	154	2	3	0	5	0
Livingston	236	135	101	245	218	9	1	1	13	3
Madison	89	60	29	96	88	3	1	0	3	1
Monroe	2,517	1,323	1,194	2,397	2,106	82	36	42	126	5
Montgomery	105	34	71	111	105	3	2	0	1	0
Nassau	2,522	975	1,547	2,663	2,490	47	11	11	72	32
Niagara	418	246	172	510	446	11	3	1	43	6
Oneida	897	606	291	897	857	11	1	3	15	10
Onondaga	1,299	784	515	1,302	1,176	35	5	6	71	9
Ontario	452	176	276	449	410	18	4	3	5	9
Orange	918	674	244	903	846	11	6	2	23	15
Orleans	123	108	15	135	115	5	1	0	13	1
Oswego	191	80	111	242	214	12	4	1	8	3
Otsego	108	78	30	102	95	4	1	0	1	1
Putnam	144	49	95	140	136	2	0	0	1	1
Rensselaer	266	141	125	253	232	6	2	0	12	1
Rockland	658	387	271	596	562	6	2	1	24	1
St. Lawrence	300	188	112	285	256	8	1	0	17	3
Saratoga	360	108	252	338	328	5	1	0	3	1
Schenectady	446	288	158	442	409	13	4	1	9	6
Schoharie	86	48	38	58	52	2	0	0	4	0
Schuyler	79	35	44	81	80	1	0	0	0	0
Seneca	96	38	58	126	101	3	4	2	14	2
Steuben	278	127	151	292	272	1	5	4	5	5
Suffolk	3,281	2,123	1,158	3,298	3,021	35	5	7	184	46
Sullivan	256	98	158	265	254	4	0	1	4	2
Tioga	137	108	29	143	128	2	2	4	7	0
Tompkins	200	116	84	209	185	4	0	0	14	6
Ulster	456	204	252	442	415	10	2	2	3	10
Warren	248	112	136	288	275	4	0	0	5	4
Washington	179	154	25	198	162	10	1	0	20	5
Wayne	284	210	74	332	264	7	1	3	10	47
Westchester	1,407	542	865	1,374	1,276	52	10	8	23	5
Wyoming	125	51	74	172	142	6	2	1	9	12
Yates	60	17	43	63	56	3	0	0	4	0

*Superior Court Information

**Outside New York City

The court hears cases at nine locations around the state. Cases are heard without juries. Court of Claims judges are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to nine-year terms.

During 2009, **1,696** claims were filed and **1,506** cases decided.

SURROGATES' COURTS, located in every county of the state, hear cases involving the affairs of the deceased, including the validity of wills and the administration of estates. These courts are also authorized to handle adoptions. Surrogate's Court judges are elected to 10-year terms in each county outside New York City and to 14-year terms in all New York City counties. See **TABLE 6** for 2009 filings and dispositions by case type.

FAMILY COURTS, located in every county of the state, hear matters involving children and families, including adoption, guardianship, foster care approval and review, juvenile delinquency, family violence, child abuse and neglect, custody and visitation, and child support. Family Court judges in New York City are appointed to 10-year terms by the Mayor. Family Court judges serving outside New York City are elected to

TABLE 6 ***SURROGATE'S COURT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS: PROCEEDINGS BY CASE TYPE – 2009***

Case Type	TOTAL STATE		NYC		OUTSIDE NYC	
	Filings	Dispositions*	Filings	Dispositions*	Filings	Dispositions*
Total	138,182	106,531	36,125	32,324	102,057	74,207
Probate	41,006	42,349	11,529	10,835	29,477	31,514
Administration	12,874	13,806	5,712	5,599	7,162	8,207
Voluntary Admin.	19,828	19,828	6,214	6,214	13,614	13,614
Accounting	28,573	5,163	3,107	1,665	25,466	3,498
<i>Inter Vivos</i> Trust	774	689	49	70	725	619
Miscellaneous	13,300	10,733	5,023	4,773	8,277	5,960
Guardianship	18,988	10,089	4,237	2,991	14,751	7,098
Adoption	1,593	2,621	252	175	1,341	2,446
Estate Tax	1,246	1,253	2	2	1,244	1,251

*Includes orders and decrees signed.

10-year terms. See **TABLE 7** for a breakdown of Family Court filings and dispositions. This table also contains filings and dispositions for the state's Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Courts.

The performance standard for Family Court cases is disposition within 180 days of the commencement of the proceeding, excluding periods when a case is not within the active management control of the court. During the year, 93 percent of dispositions statewide were reached within the standard.

TRIAL COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION WITHIN NEW YORK CITY

THE CIVIL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK has jurisdiction over civil cases involving amounts up to \$25,000. It includes small claims and commercial claims parts for the informal resolution of matters involving amounts up to \$5,000, and a housing part for landlord-tenant proceedings. New York City Civil Court

TABLE 7

FAMILY & SUPREME COURT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF PETITION – 2009

Type of Petition	TOTAL STATE		NYC		OUTSIDE NYC	
	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions
Total	742,365	730,620	253,421	246,117	488,944	484,503
Termination of Parental Rights	4,028	3,628	1,663	1,535	2,365	2,093
Surrender of Child	2,298	2,237	730	745	1,568	1,492
Child Protective (Neglect & Abuse)	43,097	42,368	13,076	12,864	30,021	29,504
Juvenile Delinquency	19,356	19,185	8,365	8,344	10,991	10,841
Designated Felony	527	356	247	123	280	233
Persons in Need of Supervision	7,017	7,507	1,539	1,637	5,478	5,870
Adoption	3,660	3,636	1,594	1,623	2,066	2,013
Adoption Certification	374	399	94	110	280	289
Guardianship	4,570	4,475	2,772	2,705	1,798	1,770
Custody/Visitation	198,181	193,232	50,989	49,638	147,192	143,594
Foster Care Review	34	38	0	3	34	35
Foster Care Placement	953	878	445	412	508	466
Family Offense	63,199	61,925	26,956	26,478	36,243	35,447
Paternity	43,644	40,858	23,910	21,076	19,734	19,782
Support	289,991	288,147	84,075	81,579	205,916	206,568
Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	12,183	12,500	5,999	6,276	6,184	6,224
Consent to Marry	5	4	0	0	5	4
Other	404	403	67	69	337	334
Permanency Planning Hearings Held	48,844	48,844	30,900	30,900	17,944	17,944

TABLE 8

NEW YORK CITY CIVIL COURT: FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY CASE TYPE AND COUNTY – 2009

	CIVIL ACTIONS		HOUSING		SMALL CLAIMS		COMMERCIAL CLAIMS	
	Filings ^a	Dispositions ^b	Filings ^a	Dispositions ^b	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions
New York City	563,177	347,542	307,331	297,714	28,693	33,152	9,863	11,246
New York	66,112	59,334	75,852	56,857	5,679	7,033	2,492	3,437
Bronx	143,378	63,905	87,202	128,270	4,273	4,376	1,074	1,025
Kings	160,186	109,341	85,551	71,673	8,887	10,655	2,493	2,492
Queens	167,818	98,034	52,430	36,024	8,187	9,297	2,547	3,032
Richmond	25,683	16,928	6,296	4,890	1,667	1,791	1,257	1,260

^aThe large difference between the number of filings and dispositions is due to the number of cases filed but never pursued by the filing party.

^bIncludes both answered and unanswered cases.

^cIncludes courtroom dispositions and default judgments.

judges are elected to 10-year terms; housing judges are appointed by the Chief Administrator to five-year terms. **TABLE 8** shows the breakdown of filings and dispositions by case type and county.

THE CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK handles misdemeanors and violations. New York City Criminal Court judges also conduct felony arraignments and other preliminary (pre-indictment) felony proceedings. They are appointed by the Mayor to 10-year terms.

During 2009, 73 percent of the arrests were misdemeanors with 49 percent of all cases reaching disposition by plea. Another 34 percent were dismissed; 3 percent were sent to the grand jury; 15 percent were

TABLE 9

NEW YORK CITY CRIMINAL COURT: FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY CASE TYPE AND COUNTY – 2009

	ARREST CASES		SUMMONS CASES	
	Filings	Dispositions	Filings*	Dispositions
New York City	370,420	381,723	517,761	392,660
New York	106,271	108,571	126,074	91,969
Bronx	80,607	81,764	123,858	77,075
Kings	101,502	107,813	172,334	145,819
Queens	69,924	71,502	82,089	64,910
Richmond	12,116	12,073	13,406	12,887

*Includes both answered and unanswered cases.

disposed of by other means; and 1 percent pled to a superior court information. **TABLE 9** shows filings and dispositions by county for both arrest cases and summons cases (cases in which an appearance ticket, returnable in court, is issued to the defendant).

TRIAL COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION OUTSIDE NEW YORK CITY

CITY COURTS arraign felonies and handle misdemeanors and lesser offenses as well as civil lawsuits involving claims up to \$15,000. Some City Courts have small claims parts for the informal disposition of matters involving claims up to \$5,000 and/or housing parts to handle landlord-tenant matters and housing violations. City Court judges are either elected or appointed, depending on the city, with full-time City Court judges serving 10-year terms and part-time City Court judges serving six-year terms. **DISTRICT COURTS**, located in Nassau County and the five western towns of Suffolk County, arraign felonies and handle misdemeanors and lesser offenses as well as civil lawsuits involving claims up to \$15,000. District Court judges are elected to six-year terms.

In 2009 there were a total of **1,286,878** filings and **1,207,971** dispositions in the City and District Courts. **FIGURE C** shows filings by case type; **TABLE 10** contains a breakdown of filings by location and case type.

TOWN AND VILLAGE JUSTICE COURTS handle misdemeanors and lesser offenses as well as civil lawsuits involving claims up to \$3,000 (including small claims cases not exceeding \$3,000). While the majority of

FIGURE C

CITY & DISTRICT COURT FILINGS BY CASE TYPE – 2009

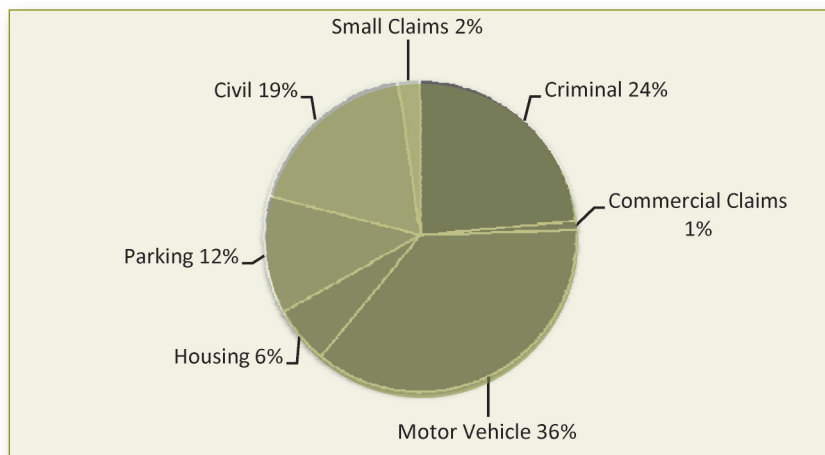


TABLE 10

CITY AND DISTRICT COURTS: FILINGS BY CASE TYPE – 2009

Total Filings 1,286,878						
Location	Criminal	MV	Parking	Civil	Small Claims	L&T* Commercial
TOTAL	302,914	469,262	156,173	240,714	28,831	77,062 11,922
Albany	8,675	25,800	0	4,697	792	4,454 218
Amsterdam	894	2,580	0	1,218	134	195 38
Auburn	1,430	2,921	980	1,590	262	563 44
Batavia	1,001	1,847	116	605	129	114 49
Beacon	1,074	6,172	0	695	128	142 34
Binghamton	3,933	4,277	558	3,747	540	1,477 255
Buffalo	22,915	3,918	0	22,182	2,661	7,878 809
Canandaigua	809	2,866	18	1,485	144	124 62
Cohoes	1,444	1,808	49	622	52	316 17
Corning	849	2,244	18	960	123	100 22
Cortland	2,108	2,789	926	1,065	151	220 58
Dunkirk	915	1,285	356	657	118	65 48
Elmira	5,130	3,099	0	2,011	323	710 104
Fulton	1,176	2,827	64	906	133	210 29
Geneva	1,129	3,888	0	397	54	224 19
Glen Cove	1,366	5,059	2,164	30	63	188 44
Glens Falls	1,599	2,579	146	947	111	166 35
Gloversville	973	734	38	698	148	303 23
Hornell	712	1,460	0	374	66	138 9
Hudson	825	1,032	0	478	160	139 153
Ithaca	2,735	8,357	2,158	942	201	582 59
Jamestown	3,220	2,624	1,006	2,253	327	196 125
Johnstown	587	1,064	6	504	63	62 25
Kingston	2,417	6,373	206	1,567	286	801 175
Lackawanna	1,601	8,025	96	506	201	419 82
Little Falls	336	764	0	311	182	33 47
Lockport	1,844	5,850	0	2,386	278	159 57
Long Beach	2,926	5,407	17,116	15	111	277 15
Mechanicville	528	832	0	316	84	68 77
Middletown	2,876	8,025	316	2,063	261	1,029 138
Mount Vernon	5,097	12,132	0	2,822	392	2,379 134
New Rochelle	4,704	16,527	92,529	3,442	382	1,261 230
Newburgh	4,468	7,236	2,035	2,330	185	2,090 94
Niagara Falls	5,584	9,263	12,109	2,955	567	1,195 300
North Tonawanda	1,881	3,843	0	1,145	243	457 45
Norwich	605	518	32	905	102	60 138
Ogdensburg	997	1,061	0	1,380	128	63 170
Olean	1,041	2,344	87	832	131	131 57
Oneida	1,099	2,611	52	1,075	123	73 16
Oneonta	1,235	2,052	879	392	194	74 46
Oswego	2,065	4,232	2	1,544	210	112 30
Peekskill	3,363	6,207	0	578	188	305 67
Plattsburgh	1,271	2,983	0	1,303	288	163 88
Port Jervis	1,550	2,927	111	477	57	136 16
Poughkeepsie	2,928	8,217	2,618	2,389	346	1,654 207
Rensselaer	521	1,870	0	572	42	95 48
Rochester	19,641	8,696	0	16,133	2,342	7,064 516
Rome	2,211	9,713	735	2,082	209	542 41
Rye	355	3,387	0	116	58	33 202
Salamanca	921	1,901	0	256	69	22 21
Saratoga Springs	2,194	5,976	788	2,499	316	141 188
Schenectady	5,175	9,155	608	3,510	610	2,307 140
Sherrill	98	483	0	455	33	5 9
Syracuse	19,877	47,866	0	12,734	1,023	5,661 216
Tonawanda	1,127	3,495	185	629	224	79 108
Troy	3,068	10,587	0	2,069	292	2,618 57
Utica	6,483	11,537	0	3,072	474	892 158
Watertown	2,565	4,414	0	1,331	184	477 118
Watervliet	910	2,281	0	613	70	586 12
White Plains	4,347	25,273	2,829	1,495	531	932 351
Yonkers	13,891	29,750	0	5,221	550	6,511 129
Nassau District	36,885	37,160	0	51,088	4,617	7,398 2,215
Suffolk District	66,730	47,059	14,237	57,043	5,365	10,194 2,885

* Landlord-Tenant

cases handled by these courts are minor traffic offenses, drunk-driving cases and zoning violations, town and village Justice Court judges also conduct preliminary felony proceedings. There are approximately 1,277 Justice Courts and 2,200 town and village justices. Town and village justices are elected to four-year terms. Most are not attorneys; non-attorney justices must complete a certification course and participate in ongoing judicial education.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM IS ADMINISTERED by the **OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION (OCA)** under the authority of the Chief Judge. OCA provides financial management, automation, public safety, personnel management and other essential services to support day-to-day court operations.

The Office of Court Administration comprises six divisions: the **DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES** purchases goods and services, procures contracts, processes revenues and manages accounts; the **DIVISION OF COURT OPERATIONS** provides support and guidance to trial court operations including alternative dispute resolution and court improvement programs, court interpreting services, legal information, parent education programs, records management and operational issues related to the American Disabilities Act; the **DIVISION OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT** prepares the judiciary budget and formulates and implements fiscal policies; the **DIVISION OF GRANTS AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT** assists court administrators in identifying grant opportunities relating to the operational needs of the courts, also coordinating the submission of grant proposals; the **DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES** is responsible for personnel administration and the delivery of professional development programs for non-judicial employees, also overseeing negotiations with the court system's labor unions and managing the courts' workforce diversity program; the **DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY** provides automation and telecommunications services to all courts and agencies, including oversight of the statewide Domestic Violence Registry and the courts' technical support center.

In addition, the **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY** is responsible for developing and implementing uniform policies and procedures to ensure the safety and accessibility of our state courthouses; **COUNSEL'S OFFICE** prepares and analyzes legislation and represents the UCS in litigation; the **INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE** is responsible for the investigation and elimination of infractions of discipline standards, conflicts of interest and criminal activities on the part of non-judicial employees and individuals or corporations doing business with the courts; the **OFFICE OF COURT FACILITIES MANAGEMENT** provides oversight to localities in relation to the maintenance, renovation and construction of court facilities; the **OFFICE OF COURT RESEARCH** provides caseload activity statistics, jury system support and operations research to all UCS courts; the **OFFICE OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS** conducts internal audits and investigations to support the attainment of long-term UCS goals; the **OFFICE OF JUSTICE COURT SUPPORT** provides oversight to local town and village Justice Courts; the **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE** serves as the courts' liaison to the media, responding to press inquiries, issuing news advisories and releases; the **OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS** coordinates communications and public education programs with other governmental entities, the public and the bar.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM 2009-2010 BUDGET

THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM IS BASED UPON A FISCAL YEAR that runs from April 1 through March 31. The budget is presented by the Chief Administrator (Chief Administrative Judge) to the Court of Appeals for approval and certification by the Chief Judge, and then transmitted to the Governor for submission to the Legislature in accordance with Article VII, Section 1, of the State Constitution.

Appropriations of \$2.53 billion were approved by the Legislature for the State Judiciary for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

REVENUES COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR 2009

IN 2009 THE COURT SYSTEM COLLECTED FINES AND FEES TOTALING \$424.2 MILLION. These monies include fees for services provided by the courts' Criminal History Search Unit, which since 2003 has sold statewide criminal history public records that include felony and misdemeanor convictions from all 62 New York counties. By law, the Office of Court Administration is solely responsible for the sale of such records produced by a search of its electronic database, charging a \$55 fee per name and date of birth searched. The full distribution from each search request is allocated as follows: \$27 to the Indigent Legal Services Fund; \$16 to the Judiciary Data Processing Offset Fund; \$9 to the Legal Services Fund; and \$3 to the General Fund. For calendar year 2009 the Criminal History Search Unit received \$54,229,175 for criminal history record searches.

Under Section 468-a of the Judiciary Law and the Rules of the Chief Administrator (22 NYCRR Part 118) every attorney admitted to practice in New York must file a biennial registration form. Attorneys actively practicing law in New York State or elsewhere must, upon registering, pay a \$350 fee, allocated as follows: \$60 to the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection to support programs providing restitution to clients of dishonest attorneys; \$50 to the Indigent Legal Services Fund to cover fees of lawyers serving on 18-b panels representing indigent defendants; \$240 to the Attorney Licensing Fund to cover the cost of the Appellate Division attorney admission and disciplinary programs. In 2009 the court system collected \$32,678,210 in attorney registration fees.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

THE OFFICE OF COUNSEL IS THE PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM in the legislative process, responsible for developing the Judiciary's legislative program and providing the Legislature and executive branch with analyses and recommendations concerning legislative measures that may have an impact on the courts and their administrative operations.

The office drafts legislative measures on behalf of the Unified Court System, including budget requests, adjustments in judicial compensation and measures to implement collective bargaining agreements negotiated with court employee unions pursuant to the Taylor Law, as well as measures on behalf of the Chief Judge. Additionally, the office staffs the Chief Administrator's advisory committees on civil practice; criminal law and procedure; family law; estates and trusts; and the local courts, which formulate legislative proposals in their respective areas.

During the 2009 legislative session and with the assistance of the advisory committees, counsel's office prepared and submitted 55 measures for legislative consideration. Seven of these measures were enacted into law. The office also furnished the Governor's counsel with analyses and recommendations on 30 measures awaiting executive action.

MEASURES ENACTED INTO LAW IN 2009

CHAPTER 51 (Senate Bill 51-A/Assembly Bill 151-A). Enacts the 2009-10 Judiciary Budget. Effective 4/1/09

CHAPTER 143 (Senate Bill 2851-A/Assembly Bill 7561). Repeals section 177 of the Domestic Relations Law and replaces it with a new section 255 to provide that in matrimonial actions the court shall ensure that the parties have been notified that after judgment is signed a party may or may not be eligible to be covered under the other party's health insurance plan. Effective 10/9/09

CHAPTER 295 (Senate Bill 5697/Assembly Bill 2004-A). Amends the Domestic Relations Law and Family Court Act to make technical and minor procedural corrections to provisions requiring the court to review warrants of arrest when considering orders of custody or visitation. Effective 8/11/09

CHAPTER 334 (Senate Bill 3866-A/Assembly Bill 8282-A). Amends the Family Court Act to clarify the evidentiary rules applicable in Articles 10 and 10-A permanency proceedings. Effective 10/10/09

CHAPTER 343 (Senate Bill 3879-A/Assembly Bill 8888). Enacts the Child Support Modernization Act. Effective 8/11/09

CHAPTER 416 (Senate Bill 6003-A/Assembly Bill 8956-A). Amends provisions of the CPLR and the Unconsolidated Laws to make permanent the State’s program for the electronic filing of papers in civil actions and to institute a pilot project in the limited use of mandatory electronic filing in certain classes of actions in certain venues. Effective 9/1/09

CHAPTER 473 (Senate Bill 6037/Assembly Bill 8789). Amends sections 75-1 and 240 of the Domestic Relations Law, section 651 of the Family Court Act and section 253 of the Military Law in relation to orders of custody involving a parent activated, deployed or temporarily assigned to the military; and removes the requirement that all orders issued in child custody and visitation proceedings involving a parent in active military service be deemed temporary. Effective 11/15/09

RULES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR (CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE) ADDED OR AMENDED DURING 2009

SECTIONS 118.1 (E) AND 118.2 (B)(2) OF THE RULES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS WERE AMENDED, effective November 18, 2009, to add to the attorney registration form the optional items of e-mail address, race, and to protect the latter from public disclosure.

SECTION 118.1 (G) OF THE RULES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS WAS AMENDED, effective November 18, 2009, to create the designation of “attorney emeritus” for retired attorneys who participate in approved pro bono legal services programs.

SECTION 127.6 OF THE RULES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS WAS ADDED, effective November 18, 2009, to provide training on domestic violence for attorneys for children.

SECTION 137.3 (D) OF THE RULES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS WAS AMENDED, effective May 14, 2009, to remove term limits for members of the Board of Governors of the Fee Dispute Resolution Program.

PART 141 OF THE RULES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS WAS AMENDED, effective July 9, 2009, to authorize the establishment of Domestic Violence Parts in the Superior Criminal Courts in Nassau, Queens and Westchester counties.

PART 143 OF THE RULES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS WAS AMENDED, effective October 7, 2009, to implement the Rockefeller Drug Law reform legislation.

PART 147 OF THE RULES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS WAS ADDED, effective July 9, 2009, to authorize the establishment of Superior Court Sex Offense Parts in Nassau, Orange, Queens, Suffolk and Westchester counties.

PART 148 OF THE RULES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS WAS ADDED, effective July 16, 2009, to establish a Relief from Federal Firearms Disabilities Program.

SECTION 202.12 (c)(3) OF THE UNIFORM CIVIL RULES FOR THE SUPREME AND COUNTY COURTS WAS ADDED, effective March 20, 2009, to add electronic discovery to those issues to be discussed at the preliminary conference.

SECTION 202.12 (l) OF THE UNIFORM CIVIL RULES FOR THE SUPREME AND COUNTY COURTS WAS AMENDED, effective April 13, 2009, to eliminate an obsolete provision in the rule addressing a request for a preliminary conference in an action involving a terminally ill party.

SECTION 202.16-A OF THE UNIFORM CIVIL RULES FOR THE SUPREME AND COUNTY COURTS WAS ADDED, effective September 1, 2009, to implement legislation governing automatic orders in matrimonial actions.

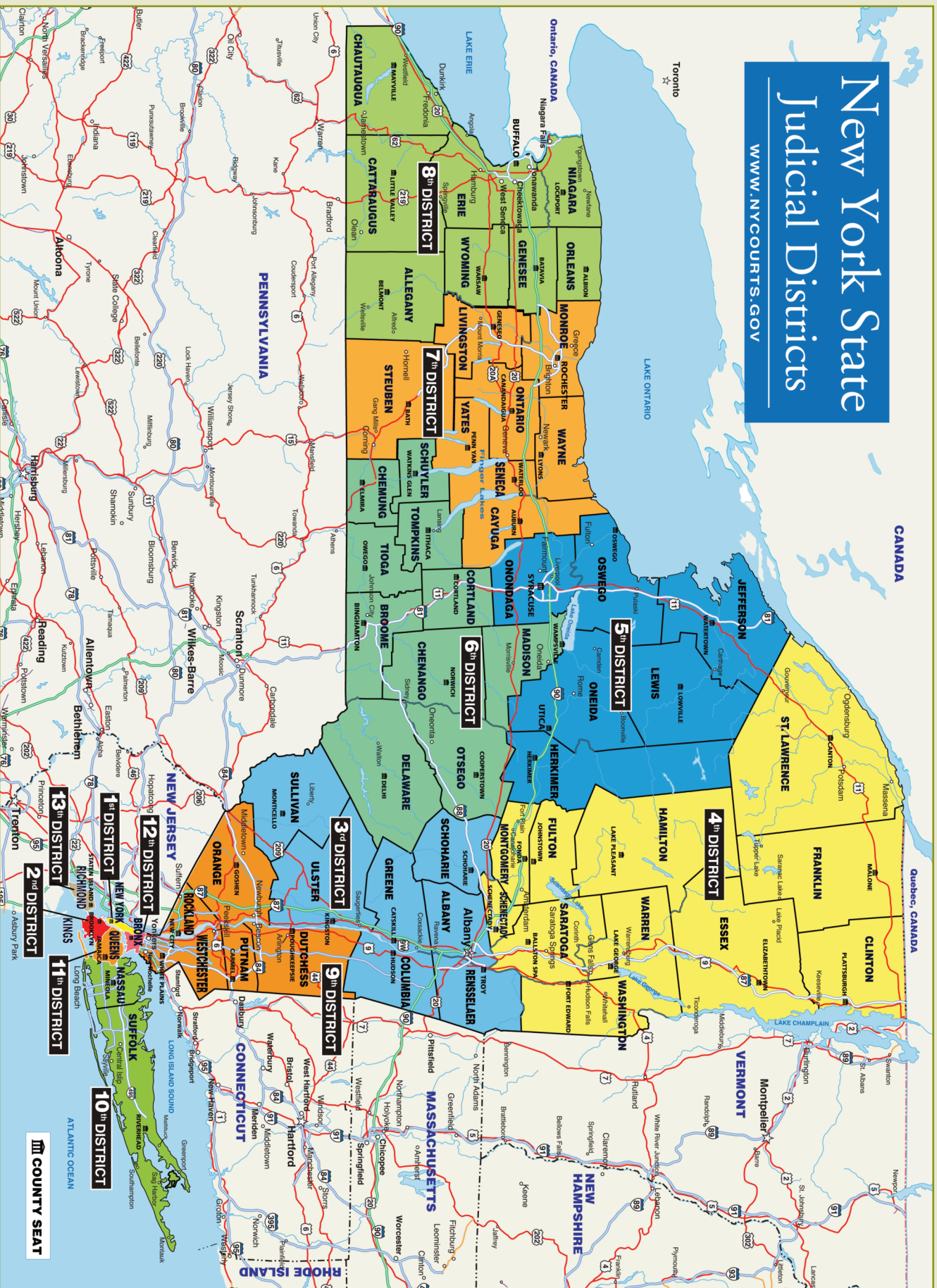
SECTION 202.70 (A) OF THE UNIFORM CIVIL RULES FOR THE SUPREME AND COUNTY COURTS WAS AMENDED, effective January 5, 2009, to raise the jurisdictional threshold of cases in the Commercial Division in New York County to \$150,000.

SECTION 202.70 (A) OF THE UNIFORM CIVIL RULES FOR THE SUPREME AND COUNTY COURTS WAS AMENDED, effective December 22, 2009, raising the jurisdictional threshold of cases in the Commercial Division in Nassau County to \$100,000.

SECTION 207.4-A OF THE UNIFORM RULES FOR THE SURROGATE'S COURT WAS AMENDED, effective May 14, 2009, to expand the electronic filing pilot program in Surrogate's Court to include Chautauqua, Erie, Monroe, Queens and Suffolk counties and to amend several e-filing procedures.

New York State Judicial Districts

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NEW YORK STATE

Unified Court System